

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jamie Wiegand on 2/9/2009

The application has been amended as follows: .

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
automatically detecting attachment of a shared resource device to a server;
automatically querying if the shared resource device is associated with a share indicator stored at the shared resource device;

determining if a share directory is present on the shared resource device;

determining if a share file is in the share directory.

determining if a checksum file exists in the share directory;

validating a checksum in the checksum file;

applying share allocation defined by the share indicator if the share indicator is present at the shared resource device; and

if the share indicator is stored separate from the shared resource device, automatically creating a share file for the share indicator at the server that enables identification of the shared resource device, and automatically allocating sharing of the shared resource device.

2. – 3. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage media containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method comprising:

automatically detecting attachment of a shared resource device to a server;

automatically querying if the shared resource device is associated with a share indicator stored at the shared resource device;

determining if a share directory is present on the shared resource device;

determining if a share file is in the share directory;

determining if a checksum file exists in the share directory;

validating a checksum in the checksum file;

applying share allocation defined by the share indicator if the share indicator is present at the shared resource device; and

if the share indicator is stored separate from the shared resource device, automatically creating a share file for the share indicator at the server that enables identification of the shared resource device, and automatically allocating sharing of the shared resource device.

8.-9. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a processor;

a non-volatile storage unit coupled to the processor, the non-volatile storage unit to store a descriptor table having an entry identifying share allocation for a known storage free device; and

a memory coupled to the processor to store a shared resource device table to identify share allocation of shared devices coupled to the system, wherein if an unknown storage free device is coupled to the system, the processor automatically creates a share file in the shared resource device table that enables identification and automatically allocates sharing of the unknown storage free device; and

a writable shared resource device coupled to the processor, wherein when the writable shared resource device is initially coupled to the system, the processor automatically queries if the writable shared resource device contains a share directory stored thereon, and if so, then determines if a checksum file exists in the share directory, and if the checksum file exists, validates a checksum in the checksum file.

14.-15. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
maintaining a descriptor table on a server in a non-volatile memory for a plurality of known devices;
detecting attachment of a device to the server;
determining if the device is one of the plurality of known devices;
applying a share allocation from the descriptor table upon attachment if the device is one of the plurality of known devices; and
if the device is determined to be an unknown device,
automatically querying if the unknown device includes a share indicator stored on the unknown device, and if so:
determining if a share directory is present on the unknown device;
determining if a checksum file is in the share directory, and if so,
validating a checksum in the checksum file; otherwise:
automatically creating a share indicator on the unknown device;
and
automatically creating a corresponding share entry in the descriptor table
that enables identification and automatically allocating sharing of the unknown device.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention distinguishes over the prior art of record for a combination of reasons. The present invention claims automatically querying the attached device for a share indicator, but the prior art of record shows previous inventions generally keep this share indicator at the server that is sharing the device as opposed to on the actual device. Additionally the present invention requires determining if a checksum file is present in the shared directory and if it is present verifying the checksum. This further distinguishes from the prior art in that system disclosed do not require a shared directory to be verified by a checksum. Therefore for the combination of reasons discussed and in the scope of the structure of the invention disclosed by the other limitation the present invention differs from the prior art.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AJAY BHATIA whose telephone number is (571)272-3906. The examiner can normally be reached on M, T, H, F 9:00-3:30, Also please fax interview requests to 571-273-3906.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on 571-272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AB

/Larry D Donaghue/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454